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MONTANA LABOR MARKET

Monthly Review of
EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK, LABOR SUPPLY, LABOR DEMAND, CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

MONTANA STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE Division of Unemployment Compensation Commission of Montana

Edgar H. Reeder, Chairman

UCC Building — P. O. Box 1728 — Helena, Montana

George A. Morrison, Commissioner

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FL. 222.

SEPTEMBER, 1961

August Employment At Near Record

Volume of non-farm employment in Montana approached the record set in August, 1956. Employment estimates in the Bureau of Labor Statistics series compiled jointly with the Commission showed 178,700 workers receiving pay checks from the state's non-farm employers at mid August. Highest monthly employment of record was in August, 1956 with 179,800 wage earners. Average August employment of the past ten years figures at 172,600. Employment was up 1,900 from July and 2,400 from August of last year. Much of this employment expansion, both from last month and last year, had no special economic significance. It resulted chiefly from temporary workers engaged in forest fire control this August.

There were no major employment declines from July to August this year. Every major industrial group either held at July employment levels or showed some gain. Employment in manufacturing industries was up 300 from July with all of the gain in lumber and timber products. Construction payrolls, which built up heavily during the summer season, advanced by 100 workers. Service industries recorded the largest gain with 1,400, mostly firefighters. Statewide employment totals in mining, transportation and utilities; trade; and finance, insurance, and real estate establishments remained the same as in July.

Over-the-year comparisons from August, 1960, to August, 1961, revealed employment advances in four major industry groups and declines in four others. Construction payrolls were up 2,600 from a year ago sparked chiefly by missile base activity in the Great Falls-Lewistown area. Other gains were in

Five Months Experience Under New UCC Law Shows Some Early Trends In Benefit Claims

Some 1961 legislative amendments to the Montana Unemployment Compensation Law were for the specific purpose of eliminating the "marginal" or part-time workers from the receipt of benefits. How well sections of the 1961 law pertaining to this subject have worked during the past five months are shown in the following tables. They compare determinations of new unemployment compensation claims filed from April 1, 1961 (effective date of the new law) through August 31, 1961 with the same period a year ago.

April 1, 1961-Aug. 31, 1961

Monetary determination of new claims filed under the new UCC Law.

(variable duration: 13, 20, 26 wks.)

Total number of monetary de- terminations of new UCC claims

%

claims 7,712 100.0

Eligible—sufficient wage credits

79.2

Ineligible—insufficient wage credits

20.8

April 1, 1960-Aug. 31, 1960

Monetary determination of new claims filed under the 1959 UCC Law.

(uniform duration: 22 wks.)

Total number of monetary de- terminations of new UCC claims

%

claims 7,224 100.0

Eligible—sufficient wage credits

93.7

Ineligible—insufficient wage credits

6.3

The following table shows duration of benefits of the 6,105 eligible claimants and the number entitled to maximum weekly benefit amount of \$34.00 from April 1, 1961 through August 31, 1961:

Total eligible claimants	%	Number eligible for \$34.00	
6,105	100.0	3,467	
Benefit duration of 13 weeks	22.0	Benefit duration, 13 weeks	576
Benefit duration if 20 weeks	25.2	Benefit duration of 20 wks.	750
Benefit duration of 26 weeks	52.8	Benefit duration of 26 weeks	2,141

Weekly benefit amounts start at a minimum of \$15.00 and climb by dollar amounts to a maximum of \$34.00, depending upon the wages earned by a claimant in his base period. To qualify for both the maximum weekly benefit amount of \$34.00 and maximum duration of 26 weeks, a claimant must have minimum qualifying wages of \$1,282.50, \$855 or more as high quarter wages and wages of \$100 or more in each of three quarters in his base period other than the quarter in which his wages were highest.

the service industries, up 1,100; government, up 900; and finance, insurance, and real estate, up 100. Employment declines were found in mining, down 800; trade industries, down 700; manufacturing, and transportation and utilities, down 400 each.

LABOR TURNOVER RATES IN MANUFACTURING AND MINING INDUSTRIES (per 100 employees)

INDUSTRY	ACCESSION RATE						SEPARATION RATE								
	Total		New Hire				Total			Quit			Layoff		
	1) Jul 1961	2) Jun 1961	July 1960	July 1961	June 1961	July 1960	July 1961	June 1961	July 1960	July 1961	June 1961	July 1960	July 1961	June 1961	July 1960
3) All Manufacturing.....	3.9	6.2	3.9	2.6	5.3	2.6	3.4	3.1	5.5	1.2	1.6	2.1	1.1	.6	2.6
Durable Goods.....	4.6	7.6	4.5	2.9	6.5	3.2	4.0	3.1	6.2	1.3	1.6	2.1	1.3	.6	3.1
Primary Metal.....	6.5	4.0	3.9	1.1	2.3	1.7	2.6	2.3	7.5	.8	.6	1.3	.5	.4	5.5
3) Nondurable Goods.....	2.4	3.5	2.6	2.1	2.9	1.6	2.2	3.3	4.0	1.2	1.5	2.0	.7	.8	1.6
All Mining.....	7.3	9.2	7.7	2.6	3.1	3.1	4.9	4.7	6.3	1.9	1.9	3.9	1.4	1.3	1.1
Metal Mining.....	7.9	6.6	7.5	1.1	1.0	1.2	3.6	3.3	8.2	1.5	1.5	5.2	.4	.2	1.2

1) Preliminary rates based on all data available at publication time. 2) Figures previously revised on more complete returns.
3) Excludes sugar and canning industries.

Total separations include discharges and miscellaneous separations.

Along the Hiring Line— Field Summary Sept. 1

ANACONDA, Deer Lodge, Philipsburg—(297 jobseekers, 108 new, 146 men, 151 women). Over-all economic conditions fairly quiet in most major industries. Few worker callbacks noted weekly at Anaconda smelter operations with total employment at about 2,150. Practically no hiring in trade circles due to prolonged strike of sales clerks in dry goods stores. Local labor supply adequate to meet job demands.

BILLINGS, Columbus, Hardin, Hysham, Red Lodge, Roundup—(2,337 jobseekers, 851 new, 1,623 men, 714 women). Job hires up substantially from last year due to good levels of economic activity in most major industries. Temporary placement of firefighters inflated job totals to some extent. New building construction and remodeling projects at good pace, but not of sufficient volume to absorb all unemployed craftsmen. Activity at Yellowtail Dam project chiefly in shape of road building and preliminary tunnel work; about 250 employed by prime contractor with total expected to reach 400 at year's end. Glazier's union dispute settled, but strike of teamsters against wholesale establishment current, idling 31. Decline in farm hiring laid chiefly to earlier drought conditions. Sweet corn harvest completed; harvest and processing of sugar beets next on schedule with field work mostly mechanized.

BOZEMAN, Ennis, Three Forks, Trident—(413 jobseekers, 223 new, 313 men, 100 women). Heavy construction agenda in building and highway projects obscured downturns in other industries. Cement plant at Trident operating at half capacity due to reduced market demand. Three Forks tale processing plant on one shift basis, employing 15. New building projects include \$600,000 school and \$1,000,000 retirement home. Logging and lumber maintains fairly stable trends. Trade and service volume continues good despite fading tourist traffic.

BUTTE, Virginia City, Whitehall—(1,197 jobseekers, 233 new, 704 men, 493 women). Hiring in mining operations slowed somewhat by closure of one mine and transfer of workers to other operating units. Some non-production workers were idled including mine watchmen. Construction activity practically nil with completion of interstate highway overpasses and bridges. Reconstruction of fire damaged city library is main building project in progress at present. Trade and service volume fairly stable, but with very little new hiring. Farm labor demand diminished with completion of haying, but upcoming potato harvest should provide new job openings.

CUL BANK—(222 jobseekers, 110 new, 191 men, 31 women). Labor demands in

LABOR MARKET INDICATORS

Employment—	Aug. 1961	July 1961	Aug. 1960	Aug. 1952-61
Industrial Employment	178,700	176,800	176,300	172,600
New Job Applicants	3,731	3,982	4,706	3,443
Job Applicants, End of Month	9,759	11,725	7,939	5,259
Insured Unemployment, Week of	Sept. 1 1961	Aug. 4 1961	Sept. 2 1960	Avg. 1st Sept. Wk. 1957-61
New and Renewal Claims	602	619	758	759
Unemployed Weeks Filed	2,902	3,374	3,265	3,309
Total Unemployment Claims	3,504	3,993	4,023	4,068

construction, trade, and forest service highlighted August labor market scene. Some were temporary jobs for forest fire control. No new construction starts planned this late in season. Main street hiring up with start of school term and fall buying season.

DILLON—(91 jobseekers, 106 new, 56 men, 35 women). Fall hiring patterns showed good trends in both industry and agriculture. Local labor supply adequate to meet all demands. Work on several highway projects, bridges, and relocation of railroad tracks at Clark Canyon Dam site making good progress. Trade and service establishments maintaining good volume.

GLASGOW, Fort Peck, Malta, Opheim—(317 jobseekers, 107 new, 173 men, 144 women). Most skilled workers absorbed on construction projects during the month including air base housing, highway project, and new supermarket. Surplus of unskilled workers still idle with many leaving area to seek work. Volume in trade units up slightly, but still below normal. Farm labor picture not too optimistic because of extended drought conditions.

GLENDIVE, Circle, Wibaux—(109 jobseekers, 61 new, 73 men, 36 women). Job hiring down from last month due chiefly to reduced activity in construction and oil field work. No new construction starts planned with possible exception of new courthouse. Farm hiring down sharply because of crop damage caused by drought and grasshoppers. Soil bank farmers moving into town increasing unemployment rolls.

GREAT FALLS, Choteau, Fort Benton, Stanford—(1,410 jobseekers, 572 new, 753 men, 657 women). Worker demand in trade and service industries was at the forefront of labor market activity during August. Construction payrolls, which built up earlier in the season remained steady with some hiring. About 2,000 workers employed at missile base sites after a few layoffs as work schedules were met. Moderate declines noted from last year in home and industrial building projects. New hires at smelter operations chiefly as replacements for workers reaching retirement age. Small grain crop yields half of last year's volume.

HAMILTON, Stevensville—(135 jobseekers, 52 new, 66 men, 69 women). August labor demand chiefly for firefighters and fruit orchard workers. About 1 million cans of cherries processed after heaviest cherry crop in years. Berry picking, haying, and grain harvest provided other good employment opportunities. Potato harvest to begin late September.

HAVRE, Chinook, Harlem—(217 jobseekers, 93 new, 149 men, 68 women). Unemployment totals starting to rise with best employment months past. Job opportunities below last year in most industries including construction, railroads, and trade and service. Student housing project at Northern Montana College only major construction project in sight. Winter employment outlook in both industry and agriculture appears dismal at this time.

HELENA, Boulder, Garrison, Townsend, White Sulphur Springs—(445 jobseekers, 157 new, 281 men, 164 women). Heavy surplus of unskilled and younger workers reduced substantially by calls for firefighters during August. Normal labor demand was chiefly for clerical and service workers with shortages evident in these classifications. Trade volume up with back-to-school buying. Construction activity slowed somewhat, but still remains an active economic force.

KALISPELL, Columbia Falls, Eureka, Libby, Whitefish—(833 jobseekers, 202 new, 586 men, 247 women). Employment reached toward peak levels in most industries during August. Demand for lumber and sawmill workers, firefighters, and service industry personnel persisted throughout the month. September hiring trends expected to be less active with exception of increased activity in agriculture as potato harvest begins.

LEWISTOWN, Harlowton, Ryegate, Winnett—(145 jobseekers, 86 new, 93 men, 52 women). Drought conditions kept grain crop yields 50 percent under last year and substantially reduced farm labor demand. Sales of livestock especially heavy due to water and range feed shortages. Other industry segments more active than year ago due chiefly to missile site construction in area.

NINE YEARS OF MONTANA INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT TOTALS, BY MONTHS (in Thousands)*

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Aver.
1953	147.1	145.9	147.9	151.5	155.2	161.0	162.2	164.1	163.2	162.2	159.9	157.9	156.5
1954	148.8	147.6	149.4	153.4	158.0	164.1	166.6	167.8	157.1	156.1	160.3	158.0	157.2
1955	150.6	149.0	149.6	155.6	160.7	169.2	170.6	172.9	171.7	168.3	164.7	162.7	162.1
1956	156.6	154.4	156.3	163.0	169.3	177.4	177.4	179.8	177.2	174.6	170.4	166.7	168.6
1957	156.8	155.0	156.8	161.3	166.0	172.0	174.2	174.2	170.8	167.4	163.2	159.9	164.8
1958	153.1	150.3	150.5	156.4	162.4	167.1	170.2	172.2	170.0	168.8	165.8	162.4	162.4
1959	155.3	153.2	155.9	162.2	167.5	174.0	177.5	179.2	169.9	165.6	161.5	159.4	165.1
1960	152.7	152.5	156.1	163.4	167.9	175.2	176.3	176.3	174.8	171.5	168.0	165.2	166.6
1961	160.9	159.8	160.2	163.1	166.8	175.3	176.8	178.7*					

* Estimate based on the basis of more complete and accurate figures for industry segments not covered under the Unemployment Insurance Program. **Preliminary Estimate.

Along the Hiring Line— Field Summary Sept. 1

LIVINGSTON, Big Timber—(161 jobseekers, 102 new, 98 men, 63 women). Active labor market aspects included interstate highway construction, good trends in lumber and logging, and trade and service industries. Shortages of cooks and waitresses persisted throughout the end of the month. Railroad hiring chiefly for journeymen electricians and machinists with little demand for other workers. Layoff of seasonal workers by national park service begins mid September.

MILES CITY, Baker, Ekalaka, Broadus, Jordan, Terry—(92 jobseekers, 87 new, 58 men, 34 women). Job hires exceeded year ago totals, sparked by increased building and road construction. Some building projects completed during the month and others delayed by material shortages. Main street business holding at good levels despite reduced purchasing power of farm families hit by drought. Farm hiring at minimum.

MISSOULA, Drummond, Arlee, Superior—(715 jobseekers, 282 new, 390 men, 325 women). Good hiring trends in manufacturing and trade and service industries outweighed declines in construction and logging. Contract construction limited to one shopping center, home building, and minor remodeling projects. Nearly 2,000 men were recruited and placed on forest fires during August. Over-all economic picture generally optimistic in both industry and agriculture.

POLSON—(101 jobseekers, 49 new, 67 men, 34 women). Labor market trends keeping fairly well to normal seasonal patterns. Construction activity considerably below last year with most building projects complete. Farm labor demand reduced by poor hay crops.

SHELBY—(170 jobseekers, 128 new, 125 men, 45 women). Trade and service industries provided most job openings during August. Construction employment totals substantially below last year. Some workers employed in Cut Bank area on pipeline construction. Farm labor demand down.

SIDNEY—(113 jobseekers, 42 new, 69 men, 44 women). Upswing in trade and service hiring overshadowed weakening totals in construction and other industry segments. Home building, small clinic building, and remodeling projects chief shape of construction activity. Some farm equipment firms separating temporary personnel and non-productive workers. Lagging farm labor demand expected to pick up with start of sugar beet harvest.

THOMPSON FALLS, Hot Springs—(89 jobseekers, 35 new, 61 men, 28 women). Lumber industry provided most August job openings, both for sawmill workers and logging crews. Most mills operating at capacity and some reopened after temporary shut-downs. Some construction projects nearing completion including Hot Springs post office, Noxon school, and road projects. Main street business good with demand for sales clerks and waitresses.

WOLF POINT, Plentywood, Scobey—(150 jobseekers, 45 new, 118 men, 32 women). Employment in construction and oil fields holding up fairly well, but declines noted in trade and service industries with end of tourist season. Worker layoffs expected in construction next month as some projects reach completion. Farm labor demand at low ebb.

ESTIMATED EMPLOYMENT IN NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES IN MONTANA (1)

(Compiled in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT			Net Change	
	Aug. 1961 (2)	July 1961 (3)	Aug. 1960	July '61 to Aug. '61	Aug. '60 to Aug. '61
NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES	178,700	176,800	176,300	1,900	2,400
Manufacturing	21,000	20,700	21,400	300	400
Durable goods	13,700	13,300	13,900	400	200
Lumber and timber products	8,300	7,900	8,000	400	300
Primary metals	3,600	3,600	4,200	00	600
Other (4)	1,800	1,800	1,700	00	100
Nondurable goods	7,300	7,400	7,500	—100	200
Food and kindred products	4,300	4,400	4,300	100	00
Printing and publishing	1,500	1,600	1,600	100	100
Petroleum refining	900	900	900	00	00
Other (5)	600	500	700	100	100
Mining	7,100	7,100	7,900	00	800
Metal mining	4,100	4,100	5,000	00	900
Coal, quarrying and nonmetallic	800	800	700	00	100
Petroleum-natural gas production	2,200	2,200	2,200	00	00
Contract Construction	16,800	16,700	14,200	100	2,600
Contractors, building construction	5,700	5,400	5,800	300	100
Contractors, other than building	6,000	5,900	3,800	100	2,200
Contractors, special trade	5,100	5,400	4,600	300	500
Transportation and utilities	19,400	19,400	19,800	00	400
Interstate railroads	8,900	8,900	9,600	00	700
Transportation except railroads	4,300	4,300	4,100	00	200
Utilities including communication	6,200	6,200	6,100	00	100
Trade	42,000	42,000	42,700	00	700
Wholesale trade	8,600	8,600	8,800	00	200
Retail trade	33,400	33,400	33,900	00	500
General merchandise and apparel	6,000	6,000	6,300	00	300
Food stores	5,100	5,300	5,000	200	100
Eating and drinking establishments	9,100	8,900	9,100	200	00
Automotive and filling stations	6,500	6,500	6,900	00	400
Retail trade not elsewhere classified	6,700	6,700	6,600	00	100
Finance, insurance and real estate	6,900	6,900	6,800	00	100
Services and miscellaneous	25,400	24,000	24,300	1,400	1,100
Hotels, rooming houses, camps, etc.	3,900	3,700	4,000	200	100
Personal services	2,200	2,200	2,300	00	100
Other (6)	19,300	18,100	18,000	1,200	1,300
Government	40,100	40,000	39,200	100	900
Federal	11,900	12,100	10,800	200	1,100
State and local	28,200	27,900	28,400	300	200
Great Falls Area (Cascade County)	24,300	24,500	21,800	200	2,500
Manufacturing	3,000	3,200	3,200	200	200
Contract construction	4,700	4,900	2,600	200	2,100
Transportation and utilities	2,100	2,100	2,100	00	00
Trade, wholesale and retail	6,000	6,000	5,800	00	200
Services and miscellaneous (7)	5,000	4,900	4,800	100	200
Government	3,500	3,400	3,300	100	200

(1) Estimates include all full and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period ending nearest the 15th of the month. Proprietors, firm members, personnel of the armed forces, domestic servants, and self-employed persons are excluded.

(2) Preliminary estimates based on return from samples of 779 selected Montana establishments.

(3) Figures previously released have been revised on return from 1,367 such establishments.

(4) Includes fabricated metal products, machinery except electrical, furniture, stone and clay products.

(5) Includes apparel, chemicals, and miscellaneous manufacturing products.

(6) Includes commercial trade schools, auto repair services and garages, miscellaneous repair services and hand trades, motion pictures, amusements and recreation, medical and health law offices and professional services, non-profit membership organizations and businesses not otherwise classified.

(7) Same as (6) above, also includes finance, real estate and mining.

COMPARISON OF BASIC LABOR MARKET ACTIVITIES IN AUG. 1961 AND AUG. 1960

Employment Service Office	New Job Applicants				Jobseekers in File				Job Placement						UI Claims*			
	Aug. 1961		Aug. 1960		Aug. 1961		Aug. 1960		Aug. 1961			Aug. 1960			Wk. 9-1			
	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.		
Anaconda.....	108	12	82	14	297	39	196	28	347	20	367	111	34	53	87	11	155 125	
Billings.....	851	208	636	147	2,337	416	1,501	215	706	1,139	1,845	342	549	1,420	1,969	252	705 687	
Bozeman.....	223	43	254	55	413	93	211	35	170	103	273	56	235	132	367	93	91 31	
Butte.....	238	56	380	87	1,197	229	1,247	203	953	27	980	215	107	77	184	52	537 571	
Cut Bank.....	110	40	179	65	222	32	120	19	222	73	295	117	47	111	158	32	39 70	
Dillon.....	106	37	124	48	91	18	87	23	45	205	251	127	59	240	299	145	25 61	
Glasgow.....	107	16	145	44	317	46	168	25	104	34	138	43	222	450	672	82	140 88	
Glendive.....	61	12	160	47	109	20	144	23	71	114	185	15	138	291	429	39	45 6	
Great Falls....	572	112	660	170	1,410	249	1,115	235	730	183	913	342	622	1,217	1,839	320	457 520	
Hamilton.....	52	8	98	18	135	22	204	37	1,198	546	1,744	232	52	165	217	26	45 123	
Hayre.....	93	13	73	9	217	30	151	18	110	70	180	53	144	424	568	225	100 122	
Helena.....	157	32	202	38	445	116	332	85	280	69	349	153	340	98	438	170	182 192	
Kalispell.....	202	42	329	72	833	215	781	196	770	53	823	207	240	27	267	45	251 463	
Lewistown.....	86	26	81	22	145	35	118	20	232	41	273	101	106	403	509	154	66 63	
Livingston....	102	21	166	39	161	25	234	47	142	49	191	72	209	57	266	73	49 62	
Miles City.....	87	14	79	15	92	10	65	11	119	354	473	50	112	366	478	46	74 53	
Missoula.....	282	41	460	87	715	141	731	154	2,150	53	2,203	707	325	134	459	165	245 426	
Polson.....	49	9	67	9	101	23	198	39	83	695	778	243	403	785	1,188	323	69 152	
Shelby.....	128	45	311	120 ^b	170	33	205	82	70	111	181	39	122	159	281	87	56 64	
Sidney.....	42	8	80	23	113	18	78	17	121	34	155	31	113	58	171	67	33 3	
Thompson Falls.....	35	9	58	16	89	20	117	19	45	—	45	15	47	3	50	12	52 82	
Wolf Point....	45	8	142	39	150 ^b	34	136 ^b	39	27	32	59	14	42	147	189	29	88 59	
TOTALS.....	3,731	812	4,706	1,184	9,759	1,864	7,939	1,660	8,696	4,005	12,701	3,285	4,268	6,817	11,085	2,448	3,504	4,023

Includes 84 claims of the Fed. UC Program 87 same a year ago. 1,286 claims under the Fed. TEC program not included.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN SELECTED MONTANA INDUSTRIES

(Produced in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)
(Hours and earnings data exclude administrative and salaried personnel)

INDUSTRY	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Aug. (1) 1961	July (2) 1961	Aug. 1960	Aug. (1) 1961	July (2) 1961	Aug. 1960	Aug. (1) 1961	July (2) 1961	Aug. 1960
All Manufacturing.....	\$ 94.82	\$ 97.61	\$ 97.36	38.7	39.2	39.9	2.45	2.49	2.44
Durable goods.....	96.71	95.84	94.95	39.8	38.8	39.4	2.43	2.47	2.41
Primary metals.....	101.53	101.53	90.64	39.2	39.2	36.4	2.59	2.59	2.49
Nondurable goods.....	98.80	101.75	102.75	40.0	40.7	41.6	2.47	2.50	2.47
Food and kindred products.....	86.86	89.38	91.19	43.0	43.6	44.7	2.02	2.05	2.04
All Mining.....	110.30	109.34	104.28	40.7	40.2	39.8	2.71	2.72	2.62
Metal mining.....	107.59	107.59	103.09	39.7	39.7	37.9	2.71	2.71	2.72
Transportation and Utilities (except Rys.) ..	99.08	97.14	100.30						
Transportation (except railroads)	106.15	101.62	112.27						
Utilities and communication	94.72	94.72	92.28	39.8	39.8	39.1	2.38	2.38	2.36

(1) Preliminary estimates (2) Figures previously released have been revised on more complete returns.

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